

REMARKS

Applicants provisionally elect to proceed with Group I, drawn to an artificial disc and Species 14, Figure 16. Applicants also respectfully disagree that no generic claim is present in the application because claim 1 covers at least Species 14, 15, 16 and 17.

As required by the Examiner, Applicants' election of Group I, Species 14, includes the following claims readable thereon: original Claims 1-26 and new Claims 38-41.

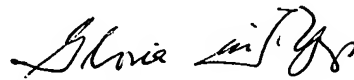
Claim 3 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 21 is amended and new Claims 38-42 are added to clarify the present invention.

The first line of the abstract page in the specification is deleted to remove a redundant title.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Group I, including Species 14, claims 1-26, and 38-41 shall remain in the case and be prosecuted.

Respectfully submitted,



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